Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04481 01 OF 02 121404Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SSM-03 SAA-01
SES-02 IO-13 /118 W
----------079731 121444Z /45
R 121310Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1586
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 4481

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, XF, KU
SUBJ: KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON UPCOMING CAMP DAVID MEETING

1. AT A MEETING ON AUGUST 12 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04481 01 OF 02 121404Z

AL-AHMAD ON ANOTHER SUBJECT REPORTED SEPARATELY, I NOTED THAT I DID NOT HAVE MUCH TO ADD TO WHAT HAD ALREADY BEEN IN THE PRESS ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING CAM DAVID MEETING OF SADAT AND BEGIN WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ON SEPTEMBER 5. I EMPHASIZED THAT THIS BOLD INITIATIVE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THE SERIOUS DETERMINATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE USG TO TRY TO HELP FIND A SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT IMPASS IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

NEGOTIATIONS. THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND
OF DEEP COMMITMENT OF US TO THIS EFFORT.

2. I MENTIONED SECRETARY VANCE'S REFERENCE TO US ROLE
AS A FULL PARTNER IN THIS FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATION. I STRESSED,
HOWEVER, THAT IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO PRESENT A COMPREHENSIVE
PEACE PLAN AT CAMP DAVID TO BE IMPOSED ON ANYONE. WE WILL,
AS ALWAYS, BE PREPARED TO OFFER SUGGESTIOS WHERE WE THINK IT
WILL BE USEFUL. I ALSO NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE
STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAD REPLIED AFFFIRMATIVELY WHEN ASKED
BY A REPORTER IF THE UNSC RESOLUTION 242 REMAINS THE BASIS
FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND A PEACE SETTLEMENT.

3. I FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT WE FEEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT
TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, NOT
ONLY BECAUSE OF CONSIDERATIOS OF REGIONAL STABILITY BUT BECAUSE
OF THE LARGER INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS, BOTH POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC. WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS THAT MEETING IN CAMP DAVID WILL
ITSELF PRODUCE A SETTLEMENT, BUT IT CAN CERTAINLY HELP A
GREAT DEAL IN NARROWING DOWN THE EXISTING DIFFERENCES.
IT CAN HELP A GREAT DEAL BY BRINGING THE PARTIES AT THE TOP
LEVEL INTO FACE-TO-FACE SUSTAINED PERSONAL CONTACT TO SURFACE
THE EXISTING AREAS OF AGREEMENT WHICH HAVE BEEN PRODUCED
BY THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS, PERSISTENT DIFFICULT EFFORTS,
OF THE LAST 18 MONTHS.

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 04481 01 OF 02 121404Z

4. I INDICATED OUR APPRECIATION FOR SAUDI PRINCE FAHD'S
REACTION TO THE CAM DAVID MEETING FOLLOWING HIS DISCUSSIONS
WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND ASKED FOR THE FOREIGN
MINISTER'S REACTION.

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04481 02 OF 02 121409Z
ACTION NEA-10

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
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USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KUWAIT 4481

5. SABAH AL-AHMAD SAID HE HAD NO OTHER COMMENT OTHER THAN TO COUNSEL PRESIDENT CARTER NOT TO WASTE HIS TIME. HE APPRE-CIATED WHAT THE PRESIDENT WAS TRYING TO DO BUT DID NOT BELIEVE HE WOULD BE ABLE TO SUCCEED. ANSWERING HIS OWN OBVIOUS QUESTION "WHY?", HE INDICATED HE DID NOT BELIEVE SADAT COULD SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ALL THE ARABS AND NOTED MORE OF THEM ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04481 02 OF 02 121409Z

INVOLVED IN THE PEACE SETTLEMENT THAN JUST EGYPT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO BELIEVED THAT IN HOLDING THE CAMP DAVID MEETING WE WERE PLACING SADAT IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION BOTH IN THE ARAB WORLD AND INSIDE EGYPT VIS-A-VIS HIS OWN PEOPLE.

6. ALLUDING TO THE FACT THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER A NUMBER OF TIMES BEFORE, HE REPEATED THE GOK VIEW THAT THE QUESTION OF AN OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN A WIDER FORUM WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL THE ARABS CONCERNED, PREFERABLY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN.

7. I ASSURED SABAH AL-AHMAD THAT, ACCORDING TO MY INFORMATION, SADAT WAS VERY CIRCUMSPECT IN NOT SEEKING TO NEGOTIATE ON BEHALF OF THE OTHER ARAB NATIONS INVOLVED. THE US SUPPORTED FACEATO-FACE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL BECAUSE WE FELT THAT THEIR MUTUAL CONCERNS IN THIS MATTER WERE AT THE CORE OF A POTENTIAL OVERALL SETTLEMENT. WE STRONGLY

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BELIEVED THAT DIRECT TALKS WERE THE BEST WAY TO WIDEN AREAS
OF AGREEMENT AND TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE AVENUES LEADING TO A
EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT. I ALSO REMINDED THE FOREIGN MINISTER
THAT IN OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS I HAD STRESSED THAT THE
US POLICY OBJECTIVE WAS TO CONVENE AN EVENTUAL INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE, INCLUDING ALL NATIONS CONCERNED, IN ORDER TO
REACH AGREEMENT ON AN OVERALL MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT.

8. THE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED, DESPITE ALL HE HAD SAID,
THAT HE LIKED PRESIDENT SADAT AND WISHED HIM AND US LOCK.
IF ANY SUCCESS WERE TO BE ACHIEVED AT THE CAMP DAVID MEETING,
HE HOPED IT WOULD SERVE TO PREPARE FOR A BROADER CONSIDERATION
OF THE PROBLEM IN AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM.
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